

EFFECTIVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR THE USE OF SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGIES

CITY OF PORTLAND
PRIVACY AND SURVEILLANCE
POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Since 2021, Smart City PDX and the Office of Equity and Human Rights have been partnering with Portland communities to make our city a place where data and technology are used to improve people's lives, particularly in underserved communities. **"Defining an inclusive and effective governance structure for the use of surveillance technologies"** was identified by community members as a top policy goal and served as a directive for conducting additional public engagement meetings focused on evaluating and discussing effective public participation for surveillance technologies.

APPROACHES TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

THERE ARE MANY APPROACHES TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGIES. HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES, EACH REQUIRING A DIFFERENT LEVEL OF EFFORT, RESOURCES, AND POWER-SHARING BETWEEN THE CITY AND PORTLAND RESIDENTS.

TRADITIONAL APPROACH: ADVISORY BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND WORKING GROUPS

Traditional public participation in surveillance technology involves advisory boards and committees, primarily in advisory roles but occasionally engaged in appeals, policy enforcement, and addressing public concerns. High staffing costs and recruiting the same, overburdened community representatives has limited the diverse perspectives in this approach.

OAKLAND'S PRIVACY ADVISORY COMMISSION

This oversight or "governance" body, like Oakland's Privacy Advisory Commission, is a group of people who review and monitor the government to ensure accountability, but also help to implement policies. Commission members are appointed residents who have demonstrated relevant work experience, civic participation, and/or political advocacy. No member may be an elected official.



THE BUREAU OF
**PLANNING &
SUSTAINABILITY**



**OFFICE of EQUITY
and HUMAN RIGHTS**
CITY OF PORTLAND

CANADA'S DIGITAL ASSEMBLY

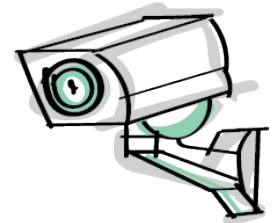
These assemblies use a civic lottery process to randomly select several dozen participants who together represent a range of perspectives as well as the demographic profile of a specific jurisdiction. Volunteer assembly members review research and provide policy recommendations.

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Participatory budgeting (PB) is a deliberative democratic process wherein ordinary people allocate a portion of a public budget through a binding decision or vote. PB begins with elected officials dedicating resources to the process and defining broad goals and constraints.

IN FALL 2023, THE SCPDX TEAM HOSTED TWO VIRTUAL PUBLIC EVENTS DISCUSSING DIFFERENT APPROACHES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND DECISION-MAKING REGARDING SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGIES.

KEY TAKEAWAYS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:



- **The City should prioritize multilingual and culturally-specific outreach and awareness activities that meet people where they are and educate the public on the prevalence of surveillance technologies used by the city.**
- **Information about the City's surveillance technologies should be more visible offline -such as flyering at various locations, community boards, and culturally-specific events.**
- **Be proactive in keeping the public informed about how the City will incorporate feedback in decision-making. Explain how decisions were made.**
- **Any approach taken for more active public oversight for surveillance technologies should include residents who are not affiliated with any technology companies, and they should be compensated for their time.**
- **The public should have the power to retract surveillance technologies that do not meet the definition of digital justice and core principles of digital rights.**

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